

CLARK LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

University
of Portland



CLARK
LIBRARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

June 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

What a year! The pandemic brought rapid change to the University and the Library, as we moved operations online, and the wildfires, ice storms, and national political unrest heightened the challenges. The intensity of this year required flexibility and we developed new skills and strategies that will enhance our ability to serve students and faculty after a return to a fully in-person campus. Even primarily residential universities like UP are likely to welcome more remote students in the coming years, and as a library, we are more confident in our ability to support them. We will continue to evaluate what has worked in this year's remote environment and the ways we found to support UP research and coursework anywhere in the world.

Spring ushered in the reopening of the library as a study space, for the first time since the pandemic began. Allowing students to study in the library brought added challenges to keep everyone safe and healthy, but with a full year to prepare the space, we were ready with distanced seating, many new signs, and cleaning stations for students to wipe down their seats. As we expected, students were careful and respectful in their use of the library, even if a little shocked at how quiet it was, compared to the usual bustling community space.

We also took time to focus on how our values can guide us in becoming a more equitable, diverse, and



inclusive library, to serve our campus and support our own staff and faculty better. It is work that many organizations undertook in earnest this year, spurred by the global protests for racial justice. While our library has regularly reached out to diverse campus groups and created book displays celebrating heritage months, it was time to commit ourselves more deeply to connecting with and improving service to minoritized members of our community.

We look forward to seeing you in the library in the future, but in the meantime, follow us on social media @upclarklibrary. Thank you for your support of the Clark Library!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xan Arch'.

Xan Arch

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

How do you reopen a library during a pandemic?

We started planning in Summer 2020 so we could reopen our front desk for checking out books, media, and equipment during the Fall semester, while the University still was mostly operating remotely. Then with more than 800 students on campus in the Spring, the library became a crucial place for study and research, so we prepared to provide more access to the space.

The first task was reconfiguring and removing seating and computer workstations to meet physical distancing requirements for students studying in the Library. This left us with 100 main floor seats, and we purchased a seat reservation system to ensure that this scarce resource could be made available to everyone. We also added copious signage and cleaning supplies to make the seating area easy to navigate and safe.

With the computer workstations removed from the library, we worked with Information Services to add more laptops to the equipment available for check out. The additional laptops meant that students were still able to “drop in” at the library to finish a paper as they had done before, and if their own laptop broke, we offered long-term laptop loans so they could continue their coursework.

Library staff safety was also a foremost consideration for our reopening plans. We configured the Service Desk with plexiglass barriers at each workstation, purchased masks for all staff, and created new policies to help staff respond to library users who were not wearing masks or distancing appropriately.



The best changes are made with feedback so before we opened as a study space in January, we invited students and staff to walk through the space and provide their perspective on the changes we had made. We also created an online survey for ongoing feedback from students using the library space. This helped us identify what adjustments were needed, including if the space was functioning well and felt safe to users.

The preparation and thought that went into our reopening plans will provide a foundation for the year ahead as we move into reopening the entire library space in Fall 2021.

ALL TOGETHER

The past year's events have required our community to adapt how we communicate, work, and attend school. In response, the Library took the opportunity to gather creative works reflecting our community's experiences during these uncertain times, in a project called All Together. The submissions provide glimpses into the effects of the pandemic using photography, poetry, and music.

These reflections will be part of an forthcoming digital collection as well as added to the University Archives as a record of this historic event.

"The leaves from the neighborhood Maple trees crunch underfoot as my pup and I make our way toward the quiet, gravel alleyways that crisscross our North Portland neighborhood. I have made it my habit during this season of interruption to seek out the out-of-way places, where one can walk unhurried and feel unburdened, where life seems simpler."

— Shannon Mayer, Physics Professor,
excerpt from *Stand*



Mark Pitzer, Psychology Professor,
Ghosts,
mixed media



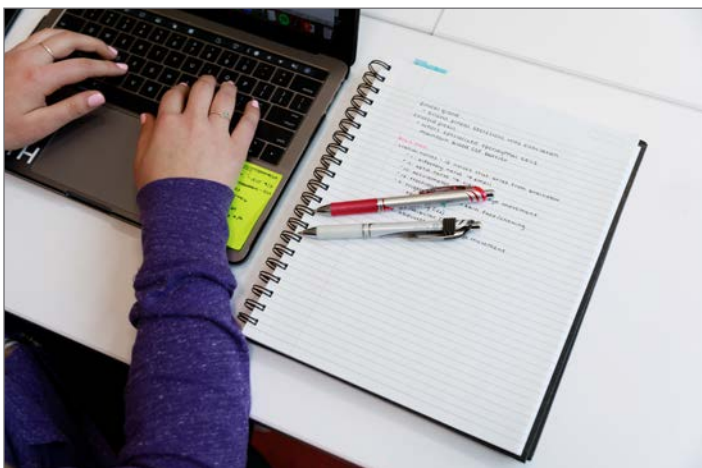
Darren Lloyd, Athletics,
Mask Up,
digital photograph



Xan Arch, Library Dean,
Coming Back,
digital photograph

TEACHING AND LEARNING

This year brought unexpected learning opportunities and many challenges but resulted in gaining new skills that will enhance our teaching when students return to campus. We piloted new online resources that provide students and faculty with readily available tools for learning how to find and use library and multimedia materials.



Our online library orientation was an early success replacing in-person tours. It welcomes new students and helps them get the most out of the library's various services and resources. This new resource was promoted to students on the University's orientation site and through our campus partners. Interest in the online orientation has been robust with significant increases in usage at the beginning of each semester. We will continue to update it as a resource where people can learn about the library at their own pace. Our online guides to resources by course and

"I think the asynchronous content worked really well. Even when we are back in the classroom, I think a hybrid approach may work well - students can view the video, then ask questions live."

– Engineering Professor

subject area were also popular, with overall usage up by 122% in comparison with the prior year.

For library instruction within courses, the teaching librarians developed new skills for an online environment. Key themes were creating interactivity in online sessions, using breakout rooms, and deepening collaboration with faculty members in advance to plan each session. Teaching librarians also became

"Since many library resources are on-line, an online presentation held immediate relevant interest."

– Chemistry Professor

more adept at using UP's technology for developing asynchronous (self-paced) instruction videos and ensuring they are accessible.

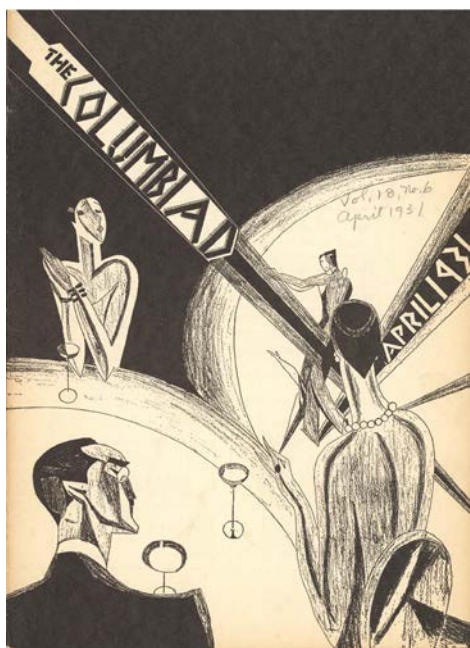
We expect some of these videos to be used even when more students are back on campus because they are available on demand and provide focused "how to" instruction.

With the Digital Lab spaces closed, Lab multimedia instruction sessions and workshops were reimagined as both synchronous (live) and asynchronous online tutorials. This allowed students to engage with a host of technologies useful in creating multimedia projects. The addition of new workshops in online graphic design and video editing tools proved popular as students sought out learning opportunities online.

The investment we made in online teaching and self-paced learning opportunities expanded the ways we can serve students and many of these will be incorporated in our practices going forward.

COLLECTIONS

Providing a current and comprehensive collection of books, journals, and media to support research and teaching is core to the library's purpose but presented challenges in a remote environment. While some students eventually returned to campus for the spring semester, many students remained remote all



The Columbiad, 1931

year, and our collections needed to evolve to meet the needs of both groups. To start, we prioritized eBook purchasing and created clear pathways for students to request new book purchases, especially with borrowing from our regional partners unavailable for much of the year. Based on faculty needs, we invested in resources to enhance remote learning such as interactive videos to support remote science labs and for the performing and fine arts, we added streaming videos of Broadway plays, to make up for the loss of access to live performances.

Digitization efforts also continued, with the completion of our grant-funded project to digitize the

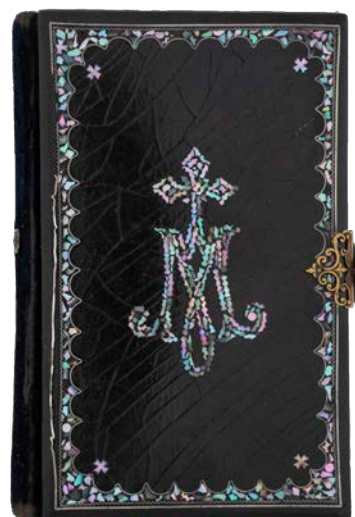
University of Portland's student newspaper *The Beacon* and its predecessor, *The Columbiad*. These publications are fully keyword searchable

Visit library.up.edu/studentnewspapers to view digitized student newspapers.

and provide rich insight into the lives of University of Portland students over the years.

Our Special Collections grew this year with the donation of a beautiful medieval manuscript leaf of choral music. Our medieval manuscripts are viewable online through our digitization efforts, but the originals are also used by classes and give students a tangible experience with historical works. We continue to create a comprehensive inventory of materials in Special Collections and have enjoyed learning more about its treasures, including:

- The smallest book, measuring 11 x 7 cm: *Het nieuwe testament, of Alle boeken des Nieuwen Verbonds onzes Heeren Jezus Christus* (Dutch New Testament), 1867.
- The oldest book: *Aristophanis, comi-corum principis, comoediae undecim è Graeco in Latinu[m], ad uerbum translatae*, 1542.
- One of the most ornate books (pictured above): *Maria, unsere Herrin, Königin und Mutter*, 1871, by Joseph Kremer. Hardbound in leather and suede, with inlaid abalone and gold gilding and metal clasp.



While we faced new challenges in supporting remote students and faculty, we also gained new insights into how to meet the needs of our community, whether that was by purchasing interactive online content or expanding digitization of historical materials. We are now in a better position to provide scholarly content to our UP community wherever they may be in the world.

A DAY OF GIVING

The Library was one of the featured campaigns during PilotsGive, the University's annual day of giving in

**TOGETHER
we all
add UP!**

April. This year's event was completely virtual, but we still found plenty of ways to tell the library's story, including through social media with the help of our library student workers.

We will use the funds from PilotsGive to enhance our Medieval manuscript collection, providing more opportunities for student research and encounter with history. We will also use funds to purchase resources that help foster a diverse and inclusive University.

"Being able to directly see and 'hold' actual medieval manuscripts put together hundreds and hundreds of years ago helped me better grasp the longevity of the written word, and the immense amounts of care and labor that has historically gone in to producing it."

— Student, English

Our supporters have commented on how these collections are important to student learning, giving us new insights into how they are used. Valerie Walters, a faculty member in the Chemistry department, said "The medieval manuscript sheets at the University of Portland's Clark Library have given my research students a rare opportunity to analyze ancient documents in an on-campus setting."

We are grateful for the support we received and to the students and faculty who helped the library reach out to the UP community during this event.

Visit library.up.edu/mss to view our Medieval manuscripts collection.



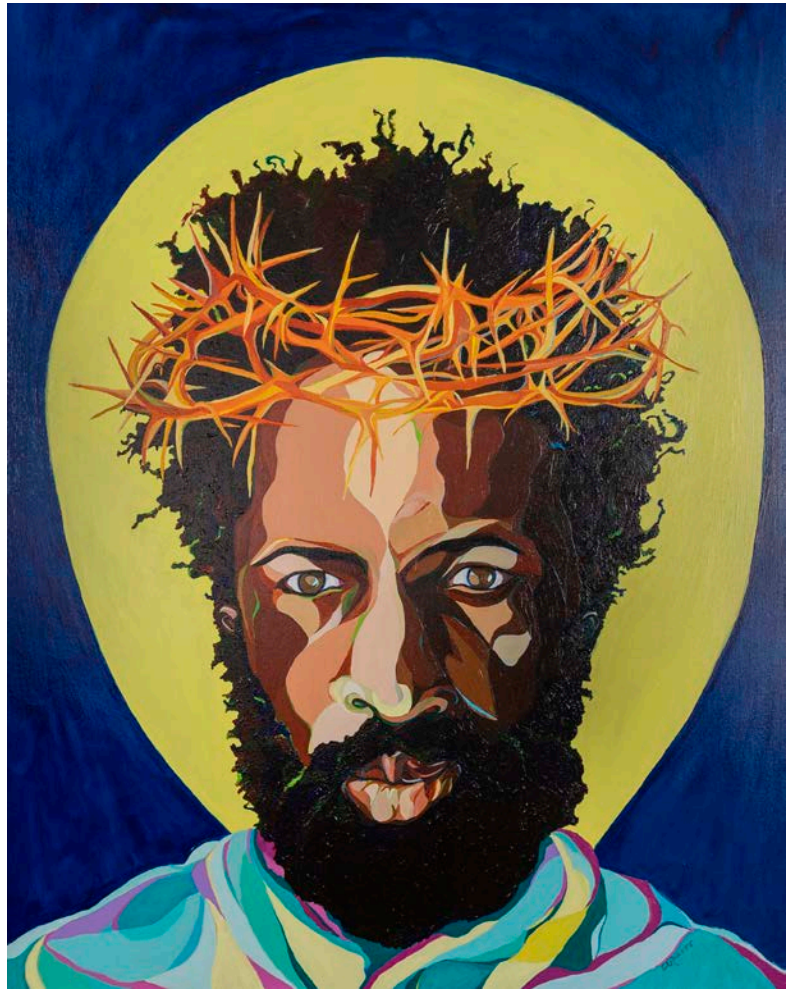
Top and bottom: UP Students Meg Bender-Stephanski and Margaux Lynch during PilotsGive annual giving event in 2019 and 2021.

THE GREAT I AM

In Summer 2020, the library acquired a new piece of art, *The Great I Am*, by Gerald Roulette. This painting was commissioned by Concordia University, and when that university closed permanently, they negotiated a transfer of the art to the University of Portland. Roulette felt strongly that the painting should be hung in a setting where it might have the most impact and hoped to find it a home in a majority white, faith-based institution of higher education. The library installed the painting in a prominent location.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gerald Roulette is a native of Missouri where he went to Truman State University and earned his BFA. He was accepted into an art school in Arizona at twelve years of age. He studied classical art in Strasbourg, Austria under the tutelage of Dr. William Unger and Oskar Kokoschka. Gerald has earned many awards for his artwork and has lectured at universities, colleges, and high schools across the country. He was a high school 2-D art educator and football/ track coach for 17 years. Gerald also played football in the NFL for two injury filled years. He has exhibited across the United States and in Europe.



The Great I Am (Savior with Crown of Thorns), acrylic on canvas, 2019

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"Art is my way of capturing life. My sketchbook is a diary. Colors are feelings, and each stroke is an experience. As an accomplished award-winning artist, I have exhibited across the US and internationally in one man shows, group shows, and private collections. In my art I recreate beauty that catches my eye - a model's elegant figure, an emotional face, my surroundings, life's travels, and subjects that have meaning to me. The body has figured prominently in the creative expression of my artwork from the beginning. Through my artwork the body becomes a site for defining individual identity, curiosity, constructing sex and gender ideals, negotiating strength and power, and experimenting with the nature and diversity of representation itself. Through painting and drawing I manipulate and record the chaotic, yet unique emotions that only spark very briefly."

A PLACE OF BELONGING

The pandemic helped sharpen our focus on the initiatives that were important enough to go forward even alongside the intense process of adapting our services to a primarily online environment. One of those priorities was equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). This year we challenged ourselves to solidify this work around our values and find new ways to create spaces, services, and workplaces that are diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

We formed a committee to provide leadership in designing and assessing library initiatives that advance EDI and anti-oppression work. This group initially sought to provide a foundation of knowledge for Library faculty and staff on the roots of oppression within library work and on the diverse nature of our University community through readings and guest speakers. As a library, we cannot consider ourselves as a neutral campus entity but must understand our community's unique needs and the ways in which we ourselves may be creating barriers to access for certain groups.

To examine these barriers more closely, the library undertook a spring project to review our practices through a lens of equity. This meant diving into our assumptions about the experience, background, or abilities of the students, faculty, and staff that interact with the library and learning how our services might be more difficult to navigate for some groups than we realized. The benefits of this project are not just the practical changes that we make to remove barriers to accessing library services, but the process itself as it teaches us to apply this lens going forward.

Our work in this area will continue as we strive to create a place of academic and cultural belonging for students on campus, to evaluate our practices for potential barriers, and to construct opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to contribute to the library space and services in ways that center their identities and needs within the library's work.

Visit library.up.edu/edi to learn more about our equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts.

